


Quid Novi



Vol. XI, No.14

McGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITE MCGILL FACULTE DE DROITJanuary 14, 1991
le 14 janvier 1991

Legal Aid in the Arctic

by Alison Wheeler, LLB III

Last summer I worked for a legal aid clinic on Baffin Island which serves 13 eastern arctic communities. Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik has its main office in Iqaluit and a branch in Pond Inlet at the north end of Baffin. The practice is primarily criminal defence, and the rest is mostly family. Most of the clients are Inuit.

I don't think I can really tell you what it was like to work and live in the arctic for a summer. Every time I sit down to do it, words seem incredibly inadequate. Even though the summer is never far from my mind, the people and way of life of the eastern arctic are light years away from law school in Montréal. That words seem so unfit for the task is disheartening - here

I am in my third year of training in a profession that prides itself in its craftsmanship of words.

Knowing what res judicata means isn't a whole lot of use when the outboard motor quits and you're in rough water in a 22 foot boat in the high arctic.

Being able to plead like Clarence Darrow won't get you very far when you left the shells behind in the boat and a polar bear is sizing you up and the fish you left on the beach.

What law school teaches you about getting your point across and the value of both sides being heard doesn't accomplish much when you're lost in the fog and you should just sit down and shut up and trust the judgment of someone

who's older and wiser than you are.

Words would only belittle the generosity of courtworker and school teacher Tommy Enuaraq and his family of seven in Clyde River who took me in for 3 days in their 2 bedroom house while I helped Tommy interview clients for an upcoming court circuit.

Legal jargon doesn't bring much hope to the eyes of a teenager who has just told you that one of his co-accused buddies killed himself within a week of being charged with the offence.

Words can't even begin to convey the injustice that exists in a system that would take a person's gun away from him upon conviction for an offence having

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L.S.A./A.E.D. HALFTIME REPORT (PART I)

by Bram Freedman, L.S.A./A.E.D. President

It occurred to me over the holidays that many students may not be aware of the various endeavours, undertaken in their name, by the L.S.A./A.E.D. Therefore, you will find below a brief synopsis of what is going on. Any and all feedback is greatly appreciated as our mandate is to promote the interests of all students in the faculty. Don't be shy! Approach any L.S.A./A.E.D. member with any comments, suggestions or criticisms that you may have. This article will deal with the non-academic side of things while Part II, next week, will deal with

academic concerns and the work being done by students on faculty committees in conjunction with other universities. And away we go.

Facilities: The L.S.A./A.E.D. is responsible for the "student" areas of the faculty. This includes the two lounges, the cafeteria, the Clubs Room and the Association offices. The new and improved smokeless lounge seems to be quite a success and is being utilized as an Office, in conjunction with the L.S.A./A.E.D.'s Careers Committee headed by Richard Rosensweig, this event is a must for all lower-year students. It is an

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/ANNONCES

GRADUATION PHOTOS - Attention les finissants! Photos for the composite, yearbook and personal pleasure will be taken in the Common Room on Jan. 21 and 22. Sign up now for a time slot outside the LSA/AED Office. Cheap - only \$25.

SÉMINAIRES DE DROIT CONSTITUTIONNEL - Le professeur de Mestral recherche quatre étudiants intéressés à diriger des séminaires en droit constitutionnel (03) au deuxième trimestre. Prière de s'adresser au 398-6643.

CAREERS COMMITTEE LECTURE - «The Life of a Lawyer as a New York Associate and as a Québec Crown Prosecutor». Lori Weitzman will be at the Faculty on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 12:00 p.m. in room 200 to discuss her experiences in various areas of legal practice. Me. Weitzman graduated from McGill's National Programme in 1985. She went on to work as an associate in the corporate field at the New York law firm of White & Case. Several years ago, Me. Weitzman returned to Québec to serve as a Crown Prosecutor in the office of the P.G. (Québec).

LEGAL INFORMATION CLINIC - Early reminder: we invite former volunteers and interested students (2nd, 3rd & 4th years) to pick-up applications at S.A.O. for the Winter 1991 term. Forms will be available after January 7, 1991. Think ahead, think about volunteering & we look forward to seeing you!

THE SCARLET KEY SOCIETY - The Society recognizes those persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the student community at McGill. Think you're deserving? See Bram for an application package. Deadline is Feb. 15 1991.

GUIGNOLÉE 1990 - Merci à tous ceux qui nous ont aidé à réaliser la guignolée '90! Nous avons ramassé une quantité impressionnante de nourriture. The Christmas Food Basket Drive was a huge success. We literally filled the LSA office with food! Thanks to everyone who participated and helped to make the season more pleasant for many families. - Julie Godin et Marie Lussier.

SKIT NITE COFFEEHOUSE - To everyone who's been busy dreaming up brilliant ideas for skits over the holidays - bring your suggestions to the Skit Nite Coffeehouse on Thursday, January 17th at 8 p.m. All proceeds will be put towards this year's Skit Nite in March. Live entertainment begins promptly at 9 p.m. Anyone interested in performing should leave a note in the Skit Nite Box in the LSA.

LAST CALL FOR «TRIAL BY JURY» - The graduating class would like to «make a difference». We are trying to form a cast of singers to perform Gilbert and Sullivan's «Trial by Jury» in the Moot Court as a fundraising event for the Law Library. Anyone in the Law Faculty who loves to sing is invited to a first meeting in the Common Room at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 17th. Look for us in the corner of the Common Room or please leave a note for us in SAO. All students, faculty and staff are urged to sing in this delightful Gilbert and Sullivan operetta on breach of promise of marriage - Judy Knight and Seth Dalfen.

UNSOLVED MYSTERY - To the person who stole my Canon AE-1 camera and a Vivitar flash from the LSA Executive Office during exams, thank you for ruining my holidays and bringing my career as yearbook photographer

to a premature end. The flash had been borrowed from a friend (as he then was): I can't afford to pay him back, let alone buy myself a new camera. Please return these items to me and be assured that you can sell them «hot» for only about 15% of their value. It's not worth it!!! If anyone has any information about the «break and enter» which occurred during the last week of exams, please tell me. Avez-vous vu quelque chose de suspect? Savez-vous qui a volé ma caméra et le flash en question? Aidez-moi à découvrir ce qui est arrivé à ma caméra bien-aimée... - Julie Godin, Social Coordinator.

FUNDING FOR GRADUATE STUDIES IN LAW:

Canadian Environmental Assessment Research Council (CEARC) Graduate Student Research Grant Program - The CEARC was established in 1984 to investigate the scientific, technical and procedural aspects of environmental assessment, and to find ways of improving its effectiveness. CEARC seeks and encourages new ideas and research directed at clarifying the concept and improving the practice and efficiency of the assessment of environmental and related impacts of projects, programs or policies undertaken for economic or social development. In support of this objective, the Council established a Graduate Student Research Contract Program to assist graduate students at Canadian Universities conducting research on environmental assessment. Each year, ten contracts of \$5,000 each are awarded to graduate students at Canadian Universities who are conducting research related to environmental assessment. Application forms are available from Professor Stevens. The deadline for submission is January 30, 1991. Applicants must be graduate students.

Canadian Memorial Scholarships 1991 - The Canadian Memorial Scholarships are awarded by the Canada Memorial Foundation in memory of the 900,000 Canadians who served with Great Britain during the First and Second World Wars. It is intended to offer awards to very able Canadian post-graduate students so that they may study at a British university for a year. The scholarships are available for students who wish to pursue either a research program or a post-graduate course at a university or other appropriate institution. The Association of Colleges and Universities of Canada, 151 Slater St., Ottawa, Ont., K1G 5N1, is responsible for all matters concerning selection of the candidates and for decisions concerning academic studies. The scholarship includes all tuition fees and living expenses as well as a number of grants for various other items. Applicants should be under the age of 30. The application deadline is February 1st, 1991. Application forms can be obtained from Professor David Stevens.

GREEN SPACE

by Juli Abouchar, LL.B. III

«Greener than thou» appears to be the latest in corporate slogans. Do you ever wonder if anyone is checking up on the validity of claims of «environmentally friendly», «biodegradable», «recyclable» or simply «green»?

At present consumers are on their own when facing the barrage of green advertising, with only a little help from environmental groups and promised help from the government. «Friends of the Earth» in Britain has launched a «Green Con of the Year» award to be given to a company for «factual inaccuracy, significant omission and exploitation of the public's fear and ignorance of some environmental issues» essentially, for misleading green advertising.

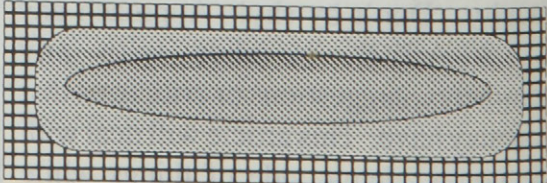
Last year's first place winner was British Nuclear Fuels for ads equating being green with being free of carbon dioxide emissions, conveniently ignoring several unsolved environmental problems associated with nuclear power, like disposal of radioactive wastes. A runner up award went to a fur company claiming its furs were «environmentally friendly». The ad was later censured, being one of six environmental claims to come under scrutiny of the Advertising Standards Authority in Britain.

Environment Canada has plans for a labelling program called «Environmental Choice». Producers will pay an annual fee of up to \$5 000 if their product is endorsed as being environmentally friendly. In return, the product will be allowed to bear the «choice» symbol - a maple leaf formed by three doves. However, you cannot yet buy products bearing the symbol, as the government is still grappling with such questions as how to regulate its use, and how to ensure this use keeps pace with later improvements.

Meanwhile the «Möbius loop» recyclable symbol of three arrows has become common place. This symbol, while created by the U.N., is unregulated public domain. In many cases the symbol can be misleading, appearing as it does on single-use bottles, cardboard boxes, and paper of varying recycled paper content. For instance, how can a plastic bottle be recyclable in practice unless the consumer has a plastics recycling depot in the neighbourhood, or the bottle can be returned to the store to be refilled?

For now it is left to the consumers to use common sense in considering the claims before buying, while holding producers to their claims where appropriate, and encouraging producers to use less packaging.

What about our record as green consumers? A 1990 survey taken by the Grocery Products Manufacturers of Canada concluded that only about one quarter of Canada's grocery shoppers are «committed» to reducing environmental damage. Some specifics: while 69% of the respondents supported curbside recycling programs, only 31% were willing to supply their own bags and containers when shopping. Not such a great record for all that talk!



Public Interest Groups: An Alternative Summer Job Experience

by Glen Grossman, BCL III

Some of you will recognize this article as it was published in last year's Careers Day Issue, but since there are many good things to say about the public interest field, it is being reprinted again.

During the summer of 1989, I had the chance to work for Public Citizen, a non-profit membership organization based in Washington, D.C., representing consumer interest through lobbying, litigation, research and publications. Since its founding by Ralph Nader in 1971, Public Citizen has fought for consumer rights in the market place, for safe products, for a healthy environment and work place, for clean and safe energy resources, and for corporate and government accountability.

Public Citizen is active in every Public Policy forum: the Congress, the courts, government agencies and the media. Public Citizen fights for citizen interest through five groups: Congress Watch, The Health Research Group, the Litigation Group, the Critical Mass Energy Project and Buyers Up. I worked for Congress Watch which monitors legislation on Capitol Hill, documents campaign financing abuses, tracks House and Senate voting records, and lobbies for the Public Interest.

Most of the staff is made up of lawyers and lobbyists with administrative and/or government backgrounds. I worked for two of the lawyers on two major projects during the summer. One dealt with white collar crime and the effect of proposed new legislation dealing with this problem. The other covered the abuse of the Antitrust law in the insurance industry. As well, I had other small research projects to do throughout the summer.

Upon arrival in Washington, I was fortunate to have some friends there so I did not have a problem with accomodation. Rent is expensive but not as expensive as Toronto or New York. Further, Washington offers a wide range of cultural and social activities. The Smithsonian Museums, which are free, and the night life of Georgetown can make your summer an informative and lively experience. As well, the Capitol Hill area where the office is located is always buzzing with activity.

If one is interested in working for one of Ralph Nader's groups or any other public interest group, all that must be done is to send a resume and cover letter to the specific group you wish to work for. Be prepared; if it is cash you are looking for, then you are in the wrong arena. I had two jobs during the summer so that I could pay my bills. Unfortunately, unlike many U.S. law schools and some canadian law schools, McGill is not part of any program which would give a stipend to students who wish to pursue a career in Public Interest. I do know of some Toronto law firms who will allow McGill students to work for them for half the summer, while spending the second half with a public interest group. The firm will pay your salary for the entire summer.

During the summer of 1990, I switched capitals and worked for the Department of Defence in Ottawa, Canada. I worked for the Judge Advocate General in the International Law area. Unfortunately, I could not afford a second summer with a public interest group. This should not discourage people from doing it. You have the rest of your life to practice law in a law firm.

All in all, it was a rewarding experience to work with people who have a strong desire to help others before they help themselves.

AN IN-HOUSE EXPERIENCE

by Fraser Baird, Nat. IV

Looking for a summer job, are you?

It can happen. After you've looked over the firms you *thought* you'd like to work for, none of them may satisfy you, or none of them may want you. Rather than wait until mid-April, mid-exams, when you're torn between that legal aid job and editing the casebook for a prof, think about summer in a corporation's law department. (I waited.) This is not a career choice you'll hear a lot about in law school, but it's an area where, increasingly, lawyers are finding a niche.

It is alleged that these jobs only go to those who "know" someone. I heard last year that the legal department at the Royal Bank of Canada wanted a summer student. I applied. I was hired. Act pushy, though; they may be new to the job and don't advertise.

Remember, as a summer student you probably aren't going to rewrite legal history. But you want some fun, right? Otherwise you'd plant trees or go home to mow the parent's lawn. I was offered a job file-shuffling and land-description proofing - not exactly leading edge, but it paid better than other options.

You find yourself alone at a big table in a small windowless "library", and they left air-conditioning out. But you have a file so it's o.k. Study the Bank Act in your spare time. Meet lawyers, smile at secretaries (they run the office), and always be nice to the librarian.

Then someone asks, "What do you know about partnerships?" Edit the treatise to ten pages, and they tell you the facts. Cut it to three and answer the question. Then, just as files start to trickle in and you relax for a rest, you're needed. One lawyer left for maternity leave early. There's work

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Quid Novi is published weekly by students at the Faculty of Law of McGill University, 3644 Peel Street, Montreal, H3A 1W9. Production is made possible by support of the Dean's office and by direct funding from the students. Opinions expressed are those of the author only. Contributions are published at the discretion of the editor and must indicate author or origin.

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Quid Novi est une publication hebdomadaire assurée par les étudiants de la faculté de droit de l'université McGill, 3644 rue Peel, Montréal, H3A 1W9. La publication est rendue possible grâce à l'appui du bureau du doyen, ainsi que par le financement individuel des étudiants. Les opinions exprimées sont propres à l'auteur. Toute contribution n'est publiée qu'à la discrétion du comité de rédaction et doit indiquer l'auteur où son origine.

In-House...

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aplenty and take some home if you want. I wrote memos on everything from "confusion" to Offshore-Banking in Barbados, reviewed the bank's litigation files, and discovered the law of lender liability.

But you're on your own you say. "I want to work with my friends. At least with someone!"

First, your friends are all in the same boat and bitchin about it. You're the only one off at 6:00. Don't just get valuable legal experience in law, but enjoy the charms of Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto, or wherever you wind up. Discover the charms of Victory Hot Dogs, or picnic with your pals and the pigeons in Victoria Square (sorry, François).

Discover a different legal lifestyle with

relaxed, 8:30 office conferences and lunch at Dominion tavern. For the single mother with kids to raise, it's ideal; for the partner disillusioned with a senior partner who thinks he's Caligula in leotards, it's great; for the parent who wants to see the kids before they're 16 and want to borrow the car it's perfect.

For those who say it's not real law, I can answer that it's a chance to decipher the good from the bad. You're both a lawyer and a client. But I got to advise regional headquarters on legal issues, proofed land descriptions and chewed out local counsel for the errors, and often dealt with lawyers on the phone and discovered I had learned both the arguments and the answers.

An in-house summer experience offers both a good summer and good training. You can also discover a growing market for lawyers, and one that lets you have a life, as well.

Don Jail Revisited

by Jordan H. Waxman, LLB III

The first day of my summer vacation... I woke up early... I took the subway down to Osgoode Station. I met the receptionist, the two partners, one associate, one articling student. Then, I went to District Court to see a trial. That afternoon, I was taken to Hy's for lunch.

This was an atypical day in «My Summer in a Criminal Law Firm».

First off, the only other time I was taken to lunch was on my last day of work - also to Hy's. Secondly, I did not see my office mates all that much. However, I did have the most stressful and exciting summer of my life.

Most Criminal Law firms are small operations headed by at most a few partners and supported by a small staff. The advantages of this from the student's point of view are many:

1) Personal contact with clients: Why go to a smelly jail cell to interview a client at the end of a long day of work (visiting hours are usually 6:30 p.m. onward) when you can send a student instead?

2) Hands-on experience in court: About 3 out of 4 days, I went to court; sometimes 3 different courts a day. My tasks ranged from setting court dates and adjournments to actually pleading a case.

3) Fast pace: The hours are long and irregular and there is always a chance that your plans will be altered at the last minute - night or day. That's the strange thing about criminal law - people are always getting arrested! Weekend work was not required but long days were common.

4) Travel Opportunities: No flights to

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To specialize or not to specialize, that is the question!

by Marie Lussier, Nat. IV

Two summers ago, I worked in an Intellectual Property law firm in Toronto. Although many students hesitate to spend the summer or to article at a firm which does work in only one area of the law, I feel that this allowed me to gain invaluable experience.

Intellectual property law involves the protection and exploitation of innovations in science, technology and the arts and of the distinctive features of someone's business. The main areas of IP are patents, trademarks and copyrights. Although this type of law is a specialty, there is a great variety of work within the field. Inventions are all different one from the next and it is amazing to be paid to keep abreast of developments at the forefront of technology. As well, a lot of the work done in IP is for high-profile clients, such as motion picture studios, rock stars, designers and sports franchises. Since IP rights are worldwide, there is a strong international aspect to the practice. At the firm where I was, 60% of the work was done for Canadians, 25% for U.S. residents and 15% for clients in other countries, mostly Germany, Japan and the U.K. This is not to say that you will be meeting with Calvin Klein or flying to Europe and Asia every day, but the practice of IP law, unlike what some may believe, is far from routine.

In Canada, about 300 to 400 lawyers practice in this area, mostly in private firms. Although some companies have small patent departments, less than 5% of the profession works for companies. Most of the firms which do IP work restrict their practice to this area, although some large corporate firms have IP departments. Probably more than 90% of the Canadian firms in this field are in Toronto, Montréal and Ottawa, and the trend is toward Toronto as the main centre for IP work.

The best way to begin in the profession is as a summer student or an articling student. Generally, if you do not specialize at the articling stage, it will be very difficult for you to do so later on. An articling experience with a general law firm is of little value to an IP firm, whereas training in IP law can easily open the door to work in a general corporate firm.

Intellectual property work involves a steep learning curve and firms usually organize various educational programs, to allow senior lawyers to pass on their knowledge to junior lawyers and students. At the firm where I worked, sessions were held over lunch (provided by the firm). The atmosphere at these meetings was informal, and each dealt with a particular topic within trademark or patent law. Furthermore, at the firm's monthly

meeting, lawyers discussed new developments in the law or particular cases with which they were involved. As a summer student, a lot of the work given to me involved research of more or less broad areas of the law. I helped two lawyers prepare talks to be given in the fall, and I updated monographs sent to clients, detailing their IP rights and informing them of recent developments in the law. I also had the chance to acquaint myself with certain files and to follow their progress.

IP work allows you to apply general legal notions to practical problems. As well, it allows you to combine knowledge in non-legal areas with your legal practice and to work alongside people with diverse backgrounds. For example, my particular interest is biotechnology, but I found myself working with people with degrees in engineering, music, fine arts and literature. A significant advantage, for me, of working in an IP firm is its relatively small size. The firm where I worked was the second largest IP firm in Canada, yet involved less than forty lawyers. It was possible for me to get to know most of the people in the firm quite well and I was surprised to find everyone to be very approachable.

It is very satisfying to gain in-depth knowledge of one area of the law and specializing is something which students should consider for it is a decision which must be made early in one's legal career. As an added bonus, you soon discover that «everybody's an inventor» and your IP skills will make you an instant hit at cocktail parties!

The Pits

By Arnold Bernstein, LLB III



...Arctic...

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nothing to do with a gun, when that person hunts to support himself and many other people in a small isolated community.

Being able to recite all the case law about s. 7 of the Charter doesn't offer much consolation when the accused charged with murder breaks down and cries upon hearing her father testify at the preliminary inquiry and you haven't even got a kleenex.

Words aren't going to convince those of you who remain skeptical that «entitled to the best defence» is not just empty rhetoric - that the client beside you at the defence table is a real live person who is up against the machinery of a system that isn't looking out for the little guy.

What is it I really want to say? I'd like you to understand the subtle elation you feel when the Crown or the RCMP hasn't done their job properly and someone walks. I'd like you to know how it feels to hear the judge tell your client that she's listened to the representations of his counsel and she's giving him another chance and not sending him to jail. I'd like to tell you the story about one of the lawyers I worked for who was the only person in the courtroom able to console a sobbing Crown witness so that the trial could proceed. I'd like to be able to paint an arctic sunset for you. I'd like to convey the utter irrelevance of time when you have 24 hours of daylight. I'd like you to taste whale blubber and caribou and arctic char. I'd like you to understand what it really means to be proud to work on the case of someone charged with aggravated sexual assault.

I'm not trying to persuade anyone to do work up north. You shouldn't decide that this is for you on the strength of a rose-tinted article such as this. Life in a remote community has its downsides - the cost of living is about 300% higher than in Montréal, there is little fun that you don't make yourself, it's hard to get away from

your colleagues when you're getting on each other's nerves, and the expense of getting there effectively cuts you off from friends and family in the south. My own experience was on the whole very positive, but it's not for everyone.

So, what's the point? The point is that there are jobs out there that are not (with all due respect) a predictable summer law student programme at a big downtown Toronto firm. There are a lot of other things you could be doing. Work for the Crown in your hometown in Northern Ontario, work for a public interest group, work for a legal aid clinic, work for social services.

They're jobs that are much harder to find. You may have to convince an organization to hire a summer student for the first time ever. You'll get more rejection letters than someone who failed Business Associations applying to New York firms. You might end up eating humble pie and crawling to a big firm for a job in April anyway. But you might get to do something really neat.

They're riskier jobs - you will have less of an idea of what sort of an experience is in store for you. You may end up in a situation that will require a lot of effort to make it worthwhile and enjoyable. But you've got the rest of your life to experience Bay Street.

My advice - write a lot of letters. Make contacts. Write to people you have read about whose work really interests you. If someone can't help you ask them to forward your C.V. or give you the names of other people who might be able to hire you. Talk to professors who may have a given interest in the area. Thank people whom you deal with properly even if they can only offer you words of encouragement. It makes a big difference to them, and they may get back to you in the future with other suggestions. And don't give up. Just because no one has ever done it before doesn't mean it isn't worthwhile or that it can't be done.

LSA...

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opportunity to browse and see what's available and not a job interview process, so leave your fancy clothes at home.

Law Games: McGill's contingent to the Law Games is close to 120 students which is very impressive for a school of our size. Lori Knowles is doing a bang-up job of organizing this logistical nightmare and all seems to be going according to plan. The Law Games run from Jan.23-27 and promise to be a rollicking good time as the host University of Western Ontario is known for its hospitality and insanity.

Clubs: The Association funds many clubs in the faculty which bring in speakers, organize conferences and hold seminars. They provide an invaluable service in providing different perspectives to the issues facing all of us as we embark upon our careers. The **Environmental Conference** held in the first term was an ambitious undertaking that proved to be quite successful. The **Native Rights Conference**, to be held this term, promises to be just as interesting and stimulating for students.

Recycling: The L.S.A./A.E.D., in conjunction with the Dean's Office is in the midst of ensuring Chancellor Day Hall becomes an environmentally-friendly building. As such, a full-scale recycling program should be in place by February.

Graduation: The Graduation Ball will be held in the ballroom of the McGill **Faculty Club**, a more intimate venue than in previous years. Keep your eyes out for details. **Graduation photos** will be taken in the faculty on **Jan. 21 and 22** so be on the lookout for sign-up sheets.

That's about it for now and my apologies to any event or activity that I have neglected to mention is this brief summary of L.S.A./A.E.D. activities. Stay tuned for an update on academic matters.

Fiction Feature: «Summary Proceedings»

by Frank Tamburro, Nat. IV

It was my worst nightmare. Let me tell you how it started.

It was a Saturday morning. I was on my way up to the library. A late night and too much bourbon had given me a headache the size of Tokyo. But it didn't matter. I downed a couple of aspirin - I had a job to do.

My name is Dan Wade. I'm a McGill Law Student.

Studying had brought me to the library on a Saturday, a week and a half before the Christmas exam period. I rode the rickety elevator up to the fourth floor. «Ka-chinkita! Ka-chinkita!» It was noisy. It did my headache zero good. It was also slower than maple syrup running uphill in January in Moose Jaw. You get the idea.

The door opened on the fourth floor. I got out. I went through the turnstile. The library was quiet and empty. Good. Solitude was an old friend I knew well. The librarian looked up and saw it was me. Then he went back to his jigsaw puzzle.

I went up to the fifth floor. I came out of the stairwell and turned left. There, a couple desks away from the water fountain was Trudy McCall. I froze for a second. She spotted me, too. The daggers from her eyes made a beeline for the middle of my chest. I turned and went the other way.

Trudy and me, we had a thing going for a while, some time back. It didn't work out - we had «irreconcilable differences». She handed me my walking papers when I said «Less filling» and she insisted on «Tastes great». I was no longer exactly Mr. Wonderful to her.

As I went the other way, I spotted a familiar face, but not a friendly one. Jacques «The Ripper» Lévesque. He was the best athlete in the faculty by a mile. A natural jock. But he wasn't exactly pleased with me. Last semester, my ball hockey team played his during the intramural playoffs. Late in the game I made a move around him and beat him clean. Set up the winning goal. It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime moves. I'd never done it before, could never duplicate it. It was good, but lucky. Still, I had embarrassed him. He didn't take it kindly. He was not applying for membership in the Dan Wade Fan Club any time soon.

I turned left around the stacks. Pipper Johnson was sitting there. He nodded hello when he saw me. I nodded back. Pipper was a good Joe, even if he was wearing those trendy torn jeans with patches sewn in. But he was a good little guy. Personable. Friendly. Nobody didn't like Pipper. And smart. Sharper than a tack. He was a sure bet to win the faculty's highest academic prize, named after its most eminent alumnus - the Ken Dryden Gold Medal.

I walked on down, looking for a quiet desk. Near the end of that row of desks was Thierry O'Neill. He was a French-Irish exchange student from Paris. He was fiercely pro-I.R.A. One evening, over some bourbon at Thompson House, we talked about Northern Ireland and the Irish Republican Army. But he took it personal and serious. From then on, I was Numero Uno on his hit list.

Finally, I decided to take the desk facing out the big window on the west side. I put my bag on the desk. Then I took off my fedora and stripped off my trenchcoat. It was minus 20 Celsius outside, but I could take the chill.

I took out the stuff I needed for my first exam - National Judicial Administrative Evidence Processes (NJAEP). It was as boring as it sounded. I had my casebook, text, statute supplement, class notes and, most important, the summary. But this was not just any summary, it was a Fenderbender summary! Carla Fenderbender was a faculty legend. She graduated a couple years back. Her summaries were gold, a guaranteed B for even the dumbest saps. They sure helped me. I sat down, facing the window, with my back to the rest of the fifth floor.

I had been studying a couple of hours. I had gone to the can, checked a couple of cases in the D.L.R.'s, gotten a drink... water, not bourbon. I saw that we were the only five people on the floor. I didn't remember hearing the door or the elevator. It was a very quiet Saturday.

My mind drifted. I thought back to a joke I heard a couple of weeks ago. Seems that two guys walked into a bar and the first one——

BOOM!!!!

There was an explosion inside my head! Everything went black! I was out.

When I came to, there was a sharp pain in the back of my neck. I opened my eyes. My head was face down on the desk. I checked my neck. There was no blood. Obviously, someone had nailed me there, hard. Maybe with a Chevette & Marx. I hadn't been out more than a couple of minutes. The pain would pass. I'd live.

I checked my pockets. My wallet was still there. Nothing was missing.

Everything was still in the bag, too. All the other stuff was still on the table. So why would someone — Wait! No!!! The Summary!!! My Fenderbender summary was gone!!! I could forget about the exam! My career was history!!!

TO BE CONTINUED - NEXT WEEK